

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus that has the ability to convert display pages of interactive legacy applications for use on a network, such as the Internet. The display source code of the legacy application is first parsed into a network-based language, such as XML, preserving the structure and hierarchy of the display source to create a plurality of network user interface pages. The network user interface pages are then converted to a dynamic platform-independent language in which the static portion of the display page is converted to a web page, such as a JavaServer Page, and the dynamic portion of the display page for input/output/feedback is converted to data objects, such as JavaBeans. The intermediate network user interface pages may be stored on the server with the legacy application. The conversion program to convert the intermediate network user interface pages may be stored on a computer program product, a client connected to the server with the legacy application, or the server itself. The method of this invention provides an environment such that when an application is invoked from a client, the runtime data manager may use either the traditional display source code or the generated intermediate network user interface pages as its user interfaces. Thus, the legacy application's data stream need not be redirected but is already in the format accessible to the network server across the network to the network user agent as network pages, such as JavaServer Pages with the dynamic input/output/feedback data as JavaBeans.